

which all of its students will participate to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and traditions they have learned during their years of study at the School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise with me today in celebration of the commemorative banquet celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the School of Ukrainian Studies. Many young persons have surely benefited from the work of this wonderful school, and our community has benefited from its efforts to keep the language and tradition of the Ukraine alive in the United States. Let us honor this distinguished school and let us wish them 50 more years of fantastic service to our population.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO BILL HARPEL

##### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I rise before you today to pay tribute to the memory of a wonderful citizen from my district. Bill Harpel of Pueblo, Colorado recently passed away at the young age of 40 after a hard-fought battle with leukemia. As Bill's family and friends mourn his passing, I would like to recognize his life before this body of Congress and this nation.

Bill will always be remembered as a staple of the Pueblo theater community. A kind and caring family man at home, Bill was a highly respected professional on stage. Bill was a Pueblo native and studied acting at the University of Southern Colorado. He had an amazing passion for the theater and devoted his time to his acting. Bill spent most of his time in the theater on stage, but also could be found directing several productions. Bill served as President of the "Impossible Players," a local theater company. He was recently awarded the Lifetime Service Award for 2003 by the organization. Away from the theater, Bill was known as a loving husband and a proud father of two.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the Pueblo theater community lost one of its most prominent members this past September, and the City of Pueblo has lost a remarkable citizen. Bill Harpel's memory will live on in the hearts of his friends and family. He will certainly be missed.

#### HONORING MOTHER TERESA

##### HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2003*

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mother Teresa, a beloved humanitarian revered throughout the world for her charity toward the poor and afflicted.

Mother Teresa, who died on September 5, 1997, at 87 years old in her Missionaries of Charity home in central Calcutta, India, was truly a spiritual guide whom we admire and respect for her uncompromising generosity. Her impact was felt by millions worldwide, and she made all those she touched view the world with a kinder and gentler eye.

A Roman Catholic nun and missionary, she served impoverished people unselfishly, never

asking for anything in return. She firmly believed that the poorest of the poor required self-esteem and hope to escape poverty, and she devoted her life to providing it one person at a time until the day that she died.

She was rightfully awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 following a lifetime of reaching out to the needy, the suffering and the dying. Her efforts have inspired generations to contribute to the well-being of humanity in both large and small ways.

Mr. Speaker, I offer these remarks to honor the beatification of Mother Teresa by Pope John Paul II on October 19, 2003, in Rome. Her tireless, inspirational work is missed, but her legacy will live on for eternity.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF NEWARK

##### HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2003*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Village of Newark's Sesquicentennial Anniversary. Incorporated on July 21, 1853, the Village of Newark along the Erie Canal in Wayne County, New York is 150 years old this year, and a host of celebratory events are planned to recognize this milestone this month.

Newark is the only village in Wayne County, New York established as a result of the building of the Erie Canal. Begun in 1817, canal construction crossed the bountiful farmlands of Wayne County, where land was cheap but virtually inaccessible overland or by natural waterways.

In 1820, Joseph Miller received the contract to construct a mile and a quarter of the canal through what is today the Town of Arcadia. In addition to constructing the waterway, Miller purchased some 100 acres for the establishment of a canal side village, plotting streets and dividing parcels into building lots.

The Village of Newark grew into a busy merchant port along the canal, and served as a gateway to markets for Wayne County farmers. Newark has a strong history as being the founding home to many well-known business entities, including Sarah Coventry Jewelry, the Jackson & Perkins Company, and Ultralife Batteries. Today, Newark remains a commercial center for the region and is Wayne County's most populated urban center.

On behalf of the people of New York's 25th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate the residents of Newark on the Village's 150th Anniversary.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOAN RICHARDSON

##### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to a wonderful citizen from my district. "Grandma Joan" Richardson of Grand Junction, Colorado volunteers her time to help area students in the classroom, pro-

viding them with a helping hand and teaching them how to read. Joan is a valued citizen of the Grand Junction community, and I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this nation today to honor her altruistic virtues.

Twice a week, for two and a half hours at a time, Joan devotes her time in an area that she is quite familiar with: the classroom. Having retired from her career as a high school and middle school teacher, Joan has felt the urge to continue to contribute toward the education of local children. The students benefit from having an additional teacher in the classroom a few days per week, while Joan is able to share her valuable skills as a teacher. Joan began helping out on a part time basis when her grandson began school over five years ago. Today she continues to donate her time, helping schools in the Mesa Valley School District.

By making the educational process both interesting and fun for the students, Joan is instilling learning habits that will benefit them for their entire lives. Thanks for your dedication to our youth Joan. I wish you all the best in your retirement.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2003*

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide an explanation for the votes I missed on October 15 and 16, 2003. Due to a Congressional fact-finding trip to Iraq and other parts of the Middle East, I unfortunately missed several votes on the floor of the House on the evening of October 15. Additionally, I missed votes on October 16 because I had to attend a conference regarding information technology at the Department of Defense, an issue over which my Subcommittee on Terrorism and Unconventional Threats and Capabilities has sole jurisdiction.

Had I been present, I would have voted in the following fashion:

Rollcall vote 540: "Aye" (H.R. 6, On motion to instruct Conferees on the Energy Conservation, Research, and Development).

Rollcall vote 541: "No" (H.R. 1308, On motion to instruct Conferees on the Tax Relief, Simplification, and Equity Act).

Rollcall vote 542: "No" (H.R. 1, On motion to instruct Conferees on the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act).

Rollcall vote 543: "Aye" (H.R. 1828, On motion to suspend the rules and pass the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Restoration Act of 2003).

Rollcall vote 544: "Aye" (H. Res. 396, On ordering the previous question for providing for the Consideration of H.R. 3289: Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Defense and for the Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan for Fiscal Year 2004).

Rollcall vote 545: "Aye" (H. Res. 198, On agreeing to the resolution as amended which expressed the sense of the House of Representatives that France, Germany, and Russia, can initially best contribute to the reconstruction of Iraq by forgiveness of outstanding debt).

I would like to also note, that I am a co-sponsor and strong supporter of the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Restoration Act of